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Security Information

5 December 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Meeting at State Department, 4 December 1952, with respect to Psychological Exploitation of the President's Escapee Program

1. Meeting was convened at the instance of Mr. Cox, PSB Staff, as a result of recent conversations at the weekly senior PSB Staff meeting on the matter of psychological exploitation of the refugee program. Present: Mr. Phillips, presiding; Mr. Cox; Mr. MacKnight (State); Mr. Godel (Defense); [redacted] (CIA); Mr. Warren (State); Mr. Horowitz (State); and Mr. Huyler (State).

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2. Mr. Warren presented exhibits indicating the amount of publicity given in this country by public media with respect to 44 Czechoslovakians being received in this country; and in addition, had other type photo exhibits.

3. The discussion centered on the fact that we now have an active program which should receive additional publicity behind the Iron Curtain, and that Circular 159, of 13 August 1952 (Info. Bulletin No. 27) was a broad guidance which needs further amplification. Although there were some VOA scripts present, they were not revealing as to whether this was a sustained VOA campaign. Mr. MacKnight thought that action sponsored from Germany could be particularly effective and a thought a review of the HICOG report was in order.

4. It was decided that two requirements ought to be taken into consideration before this problem was considered further:

a. Review what is being done now. (VOA, RFE, Defense)

b. Attempt a redraft of the August guidance to strengthen it to provide for a sustained and emphasized publicity program behind the Iron Curtain. (With respect to the existence of an effective program and its actual accomplishment of results without placing any incentives in the direction of mass defection.)

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